

THE CASE OF Edward Singleton.

THat *Edward Singleton* had the Misfortune to take some Lands from the Earl of *Athlone*, in the Lower part of the Barony of *Slane* and County of *Meath*, under the yearly Rent of 486 *l. Ster.* which was more then the said Lands yielded before the late Troubles in *Ireland*, and were so very dear set, that the said *Edward Singleton* would have thrown up his Lease, but that the said Earl being very sensible of the hardness of the Bargain, and being willing to encourage Protestant Tenants to Settle and Improve in that Wild Country, did abate 40 *l. per Annum* of the said reserved Rent; That the said Earl coming for *Ireland* about Two years since, and being resolved to Fine off part of his Rents, the said *Edward Singleton* not being willing that a Stranger should come over his Head, did, by Advice of his Council, Fine off as much of his Rent as came to 1470 *l. Ster.* which he was advised to do by his Council, who assured him, that the said Earl had a very good Estate in Law, in the said Lands, and that the said Lands being confirmed to the said Earl by Act of Parliament in *Ireland*, was a very good and sufficient Title, and the highest Security that any Man in *Ireland* had, or could have, for his Estate; and therefore depending upon the Security of the Law, was induced to Deal with the said Earl, tho he was forced to borrow the Money, he having expended what he could get before in Improving the said Lands; That the said Lands had never before been posselt by any Protestants, but was a very Wild *Irish* part of the Country, insomuch that for some years the said *Edward Singleton* could not Ride a Mile thereabout with safety, without 3 or 4 Men well Armed in his Company; That the said *Edward Singleton* hath encouraged several Protestants to Sit down and Improve on the said Lands, and was forced to give some of them Houses, and Gardens, and Grasing free, to encourage them to come there; That he hath Promoted and Contributed to the Building of the Parish Church, and that by his Endeavours there, hath encouraged a great many Protestants to Plant themselves in and near the said Lands, so that there are generally Sixty Protestants at Church there every *Sunday*, where there was never one before; That he hath built a very good House, a Pidgeon-House, and other Houses, Planted an Orchard, and very much Improved the said Lands by cutting several Hundred Acres of Shrub that rendered it unprofitable, and by Cutting and Scowring several Thousand Perches of Ditches and Drains, so that purely by his Improvements, the said Lands are much more Valuable, then otherwise they would have been, and is very confident if the said Lands had not been set to such an Improving Tenant, there never could have been made the Reserved Rent of 486 *l. per Annum* out of the said Lands, so that with his Improvements he hath laid out upwards of 2000 *l. Ster.* being the greatest part of his Substance, so that if he be not Relieved by the Honourable House of Commons, it will tend to the utter Ruine of him and his Numerous Family, having Twelve Children; Therefore the said *Edward Singleton* humbly Hopes, that the Honourable House of Commons will particularly take his Case into their Consideration, and in regard he is likely to lose the greatest part of the 1470 *l.* he paid the Earl of *Athlone*, they will preserve to him the Lease of years of the said Lands that he had under the Earl of *Athlone*, at 486 *l. per Annum*, it being the full Improved Rent, except what the Land is bettered by his Improvements: And it is most Humbly Offer'd to the Consideration of the Honourable the House of Commons, that a Clause may be Incerted in the Bill now depending before them relating to the said Forfeited Estates, Impowering the Trustees to Examine the Truth of the said *Edward Singleton's* Allegations, and that finding them to be true, they may have Power to preserve to him the Lease of years made by the Earl of *Athlone* under the Rent of 486 *l. per Annum*, of which Lease there is about 24 years yet unexpired, which will in some measure enable him to support his Numerous Family, and will be a great Relief to many *English* Protestant Families who live on the said Lands, and hold under his Title, who have laid out most part of their Substance in Building and other Improvements on the said Land.

All which is with the greatest Deference and Humility humbly submitted to the great Wisdom and Justice of the Honourable the House of Commons.